

Theme: John presents Jesus as the Eternal God in flesh - fully Divine, Creator of all, the True Light, the Great I AM - coming to reveal the Father and redeem His people.

## I. John - the Eagle

- A. John occupies a unique place among the Gospels
- B. Probably written last - and very different
- C. Matthew, Mark, Luke - Synoptics - viewing together
- D. John covers different stories, with different themes
- E. How does John's Gospel present Jesus as the Eagle?

## II. John - The Eagle - The Deity of Christ

- A. John presents Jesus as the Eagle - the Divine One  
The fourth [face signifies] John the evangelist who, having taken up eagles wings and hastening toward higher matters, discusses the Word of God. - Jerome
  - 1. The eagle symbolized the higher matters - the Word
  - 2. John - theme of Jesus as God, one with Yahweh
  - 3. We can't fulfill God's commands in isolation
- B. The opening of John's Gospel - Jesus as God  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2
  - 1. John does not begin with Jesus' ministry or nativity
  - 2. John begins in eternity past - before time begins
  - 3. He begins with the bold assertion that the Word was with God and was God (the Trinity)

- a. Word is distinct from God and is yet the One God
- b. Doctrine of the Trinity - One God, distinct Persons

## C. This theme is key and developed throughout John

- 1. All Gospels tip hand to key theme right at beginning
- 2. For John, Deity of Christ is central to everything
- 3. John also shows Jesus as fulfillment, as King, as Suffering Servant - but all only important because He is God

## III. The Deity of Christ In the Gospel of John

- A. John gives Jesus Divine attributes
  - 1. Jesus is the Creator of all things  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.  
<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. John 1:1-3,10
    - a. All things made through Jesus the Word
    - b. Clearly reference to Genesis - beginning, God said
    - c. If it has been created, Jesus made it - NOTHING created except though Him
  - 2. Jesus is Life and the Light  
In him was life, and that life was the light of men.  
<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.... The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. John 1:4-5,9

- a. Life is in Jesus - and that life gives light to us
- b. A common idea for God in ancient religions and philosophy
- c. But also clearly a biblical idea - God is Light and Life
- d. The light that shone forth in Genesis 1 is a physical manifestation of Jesus' life
- e. John - physical & spiritual light are in Jesus

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,** we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. <sup>1</sup> John 1:5–7

- f. To say this is to say Jesus is God!

### 3. Jesus breathes the Spirit of life into the disciples

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:21–22

- a. Jesus breathes the Spirit of life into humans
- b. Re-enactment of Genesis 2:7 - even uses same rare verb!

### B. Jesus is the Temple of God - the Incarnation

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

- 1. The Word, who was God, became flesh - human
- 2. The Word 'tabernacled' among us

### 3. The Word is God dwelling among us

### C. Jesus is the full, perfect revelation of God

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. John 1:16–18 (ESV)

- 1. Jesus is fullness - nothing partial in Him!
- 2. Jesus gives grace upon grace - more than Moses
- 3. Moses gave law - a partial revelation
- 4. Jesus is the full and final revelation!
- 5. Even Moses could not see God's face - but Jesus does and makes God known to us

### D. John plainly states the Deity of Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning... <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1:1–2, 18

- 1. John begins and ends prologue with flat assertion of Jesus' Deity
- 2. He wants to frame the entire Gospel with this fact - Jesus is God

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup>**Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"** John 20:26–28

3. This is a climax to the Gospel - doubters believe
4. Even the doubter sees that Jesus is God!
5. This is a human recognizing the truth laid out in the prologue - God the Word has become flesh!

#### IV. The I AM Sayings In John

##### A. There are seven "I am" sayings in John

1. I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
2. I Am the Light of the world (John 8:12)
3. I Am the Door for the sheep (John 10:7)
4. I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
6. I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
7. I Am the True Vine (John 15:1)

##### B. Taken together these statements alone would point to Deity

1. Many are allusions to Old Testament festivals and passages
2. These all point out that Jesus is more than human
3. Taken together they make a strong case for Jesus claiming to be God

##### C. The I AM assertions of Deity

1. Jesus refers to Himself as I AM increasingly clearly I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will

indeed die in your sins." "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. John 8:24–25

- a. Note brackets - Greek is "if you do not believe I Am"
- b. They are shocked and asked "Who are you?"
- c. The background is Divine name in Exodus 3:14
- d. Background is especially Isaiah 43:10-12

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

<sup>11</sup> I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior. <sup>12</sup> I have revealed and saved and proclaimed— I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "that I am God. Isaiah 43:10–12

1. Jesus uses same words as in Isaiah 43:10
2. Yahweh is saying He is only God, only Savior
3. Jesus seems to be saying the same thing!

- e. Jesus says it again in v28, and many believe in v30

##### 2. Jesus claims to be I AM - Yahweh

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" <sup>58</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "**before Abraham was born, I am!**" <sup>59</sup> At this, **they picked up stones to stone him**, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:56–59

- a. Here Jesus is quite clear - I AM - claims to be God

- b. Jewish leaders understand this - no question - just want to stone Him for blasphemy

D. The importance of the I AM sayings

1. The I AM sayings are clear assertions to be Yahweh in the flesh - the Creator of all, the Eternal Sovereign God, the only Savior.
2. "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." CS Lewis

**V. Applying the Word**

A. Do we believe Jesus is the only Savior?

1. This is very unpopular today - must be many ways
2. Many say Jesus & others really say the same things
3. But Jesus is the only path to the Father (John 14:6)
4. The claims of Jesus in John are clear - He is the only True Light, the only Savior
5. Whoever does not eat and drink Him dies
6. Do we believe this - in spite of cultural pressure?

B. Do we believe Jesus is God in the flesh

1. This is why the first must be true
2. Jesus isn't a just a prophet - He is the God of the prophets
3. Jesus isn't just a exalted creature - He is the

Creator of all creatures

4. This is really the issues - as CS Lewis said
5. If Jesus is God, all else falls into place
6. Do we believe and embrace Him as God?

C. The Lord's Table

1. We now come to the Table to feed upon Christ - the Living Bread
2. This is not our Table - it is His
3. Here those who believe He is God in flesh come to receive strength
4. Come, eat and drink, and receive from Christ our God

**John - The Eagle**

John 1:1-18  
March 22, 2015  
Communion  
Jude 24-25

Teaching keywords: Lent, Christology, Deity of Christ

24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1:1–18